ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1969

R. P. Saunders & Co., Printers, Huntingdon

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Public Analyst : S. GREENBURGH, PH.D., B.SC., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge.

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PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE :
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Consulting Engineers : MESSRS. PICK, EVERARD, KEAY & GIMSON.

REPORT

ON THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1969

To the Huntingdon Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twelfth Annual Report upon the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1969.

The District is made up of a large number of villages, agriculture being the chief local industry. Many people who live in the area travel to work in the towns of Huntingdon or Peterborough where there is industrial and other employment. There are several large airfields in the District so that many British and American Air Force personnel live in the area with their families.

The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population to have been 17,060, an increase of 470 over 1968.

There were 314 live births during the year, which is more than is usual. Previous high-birth years were 1964 with 313 and 1962 with 328. The crude birth rate was 18·4 per 1,000 population, and the adjusted rate 24·7. This figure should be compared with the rate for England and Wales which was 16·3 per 1,000 for the same period.

Five still-births occurred during the year, but I am pleased to report that there were no infant deaths, which should give great satisfaction to all concerned.

There were eighty-six deaths during the year, 51 male and 35 female. This gave a crude death rate of 5·0 and an adjusted rate of 7·8 per 1,000 population, which is to be compared to the rate of 11·9 for England and Wales.

Twenty persons died of malignant disease and of these seven, all men, died of carcinoma of the lung or bronchus. Three were between 55 and 65, a further three under 75, and one over 75.

I must again repeat in this report that if it were not for the smoking habit, very few people would die of carcinoma of the lung.

Little infectious disease was notified during the year, the most frequent being Measles 28 and Whooping Cough 25 cases.

A satisfactory vaccine against Measles is now available. Measles can be a most unpleasant disease to have and is sometimes followed by severe complications, the more serious being broncho-pneumonia, middle ear infection, or ulceration of the cornea, the transparent "window" on the front of the eye. I strongly recommend parents to have their children immunised against this disease.

The Council's plan of sewering the villages of the District steadily, by consistently following up one project by another, so that at times there have been as many as three schemes in different stages at the same time, has paid off well during the last ten years. To give one example, at the end of 1959 the Annual Report showed that there were 890 pail closets in the District, whereas at the end of 1969 there are only 216. Many of these will soon disappear as the Easton, Ellington and Spaldwick Sewerage Scheme becomes a reality.

I acknowledge with thanks the help given to me by the Members of the Council, their Officers and Staff and my Professional Colleagues in the District throughout the year.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area, in acres	69,937
Estimated Population (mid-1969)	17,060
Density of Population per acre	0·24
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1969	4,330
Number of Inhabited Houses, excluding Air Ministry ...	3,487
Rateable Value, 31-12-69	£438,793
Product of Penny Rate, 31-3-69	£1,703

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	
Number	314
Rate per 1,000 population	18·4
Ilegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births ...	4
Stillbirths	
Number	5
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still-births	16
Total Live and Still-births	319
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate	
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 live births	Nil
Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) ...	16
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	5

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales : —

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live births	Per 1,000 Total births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Still Births
Huntingdon Rural	18·4	24·7	5	7·8	0	16
England & Wales	—	16·3	—	11·9	18	13

Comparability factor for births, 1·34 and for deaths, 1·56.

The Comparability factors shown under the table of birth and death rates are supplied by the Registrar General. When our local rates are multiplied by these figures they are comparable with the national figures, or with the adjusted rates of anywhere else in the country. In issuing the factors, allowance is made for any unusual distribution of age groups in the population.

Infant Deaths

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Number of Deaths	7	5	2	4	6	Nil
Death Rates of Infants per 1,000 live births	22·4	20·1	6·8	15	21	Nil

Summary of Causes of Deaths

Deaths from Cancer (total)	20
Cancer of Lung or Bronchus	7
Cancer of the Stomach	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	14
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3
All Other Accidents	2

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar General's figures):—

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis and its sequelae	1	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	7	—	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	—	2
Other malignant neoplasms	1	4	5
Diabetes mellitus	2	1	3
Meningitis	—	1	1
Hypertensive disease	—	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	9	5	14
Other forms of heart disease	1	1	2
Cerebrovascular disease	2	6	8
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	3	2	5
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	6	2	8
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	1	3
Asthma	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	1	—	1
Congenital anomalies	—	1	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions ...	1	—	1
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	—	1
All other external causes	3	—	3
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...	51	35	86

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1969 :—

Disease	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	28	1	3	4	2	3	13	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	25	2	1	1	3	3	12	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	8	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaundice	7	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Encephalitis (post infectious)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

P. V. CANT.

The Child Health Centre,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Peterborough.

Peterborough 68010.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

MONTAGU HOUSE,
HUNTINGDON

SEWERS

The villages of Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Brampton, Sawtry, Conington, Upwood, Great Stukeley, Little Stukeley and Great Gidding have sewers and sewage disposal works.

Tenders for the Eastern Ellington and Spaldwick sewerage scheme were accepted during the year.

HOUSING

Number of houses in the district at the end of 1968	4,232
Number of new dwellings constructed during 1969	133
Number of houses demolished or closed during 1969 ...	35
Number of houses in the district at the end of 1969 ...	4,330

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

No. of houses with W.C's	4,066
Number of houses with pail closets	216
Number of W.C.'s constructed for new houses	133
Number of W.C.'s newly constructed for old properties ...	8
Number of W.C. conversions grant aided (Sec. 47 P.H.A. 1936)	3

DUSTBINS

Number of dwellings (including caravans)	4,518
Number of new bins provided during the year	146
Number of dustbins emptied by private contractor	247
Number of other properties from which dustbins emptied by Council	86

REFUSE COLLECTION

Frequency—Night soil	Weekly
Dry refuse	Weekly
Transport and No. of men	2 vehicles, 6 men

Whole area is covered.

Particulars of service(s)—

Unburnable refuse collection and night soil collection.

Details of disposal arrangements—

Controlled tipping. Night soil to land and Alconbury Sewage works.

Complaints received re non-removal	32
No. of bins emptied (from dwellings and caravans)	5,270
No. of pail closets emptied	216

DRAINS

New drains tested	146
Existing drains inspected	41
Existing drains repaired or reconstructed	122

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

No. of disposal works for villages	5
No. of disposal works for Council Houses	3
No. of cesspools abolished	12

SHOPS, OFFICES AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

No. of offices registered during 1969	2
No. of retail shops registered during 1969	Nil
No. of wholesale shops, warehouses registered during 1969	Nil
No. of catering establishments registered during 1969 ...	Nil
No. of fuel storage depots registered during 1969	Nil
Total No. of premises registered	49

	Males	*Females*	
Total No. of persons employed in registered premises	106	127	233

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No. of licences in force December, 1969 (Multiple Sites) ...	4
No. of caravans on these sites	136
No. of licences for single caravans	50
Estimated No. of residents on all sites	534
No. of inspections made	217
No. of nuisances investigated	18
No. of nuisances remedied	16

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of licences issued as renewals	76
No. of new licences issued	Nil
Total number of licences in force	76
No. of tanks and pipe lines tested	3

SLAUGHTERMEN

Five slaughtermen's licences have been renewed.

PESTS ACT, 1949

Inspections	
No. of houses inspected and reinspected	1303
No. of agricultural inspections and reinspections	448
No. of business premises inspected and reinspected	31
No. of L.A. properties inspected (excluding council houses)	179
Total No. of inspections and reinspections	2572
Treatments	
No. of houses treated and retreated	361
No. of agricultural treatments and retreatments	255
No. of business premises treated and retreated	4
No. of L.A. properties treated (excluding council houses) ...	103
Total No. of treatments and retreatments	1055
Enforcement	
No. of statutory notices served under Sec. 4	Nil

No infestations of a serious nature were observed nor has any evidence of warfarin resistance been apparent.

DISINFECTION

No premises were disinfected during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960 —

Category	*Total No.*	*Complying with REG.* 16	*No. to which REG.* 19 *applies*	*Complying with REG.* 19
General Stores ...	29	27	24	18
Cafes ... ... & Restaurants	7	6	6	5
Butchers	4	4	4	3
Licensed Premises ...	26	25	25	21
Bakehouses ...	2	2	2	2

NUISANCES

Abated as a result of informal action	167
Abated as a result of Statutory action	Nil

Analysis of nuisances	*No.*	*No. of Inspections*
Premises	117	251
Accumulations of Refuse	8	24
Foul ditches	9	19
Drains	29	62
Keeping of animals	2	5
Noise	2	7

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

No. of Slaughter Houses on register	1
No. of visits for the inspection of meat to—	
Slaughter House	54
Shops	19
Stalls	Nil
Vehicles	16

During the year 40 lbs. of carcase meat and offal, 13 lbs. of canned meat, and 64 lbs. of other canned foods were found to be unsound and surrendered.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	49
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausage	4
No. of inspections	106

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*	*Horses*
Number killed (if known) ...	57	10	1	6	Nil	—
Number inspected	57	10	1	6	Nil	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	6·90	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The slaughterhouse at Sawtry ceased to be used on the 31st December, 1969. There are now no slaughterhouses in use in the district.

POULTRY INSPECTION

No. of poultry processing premises	1
No. of visits	26
Total number of birds processed during the year	83,398
Types of birds processed	Turkeys and Chickens
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption ...approx.	0.03%

The majority of the turkeys are bred on the farm attached to the processing plant. It is necessary for the owner to cull all birds at the slightest show of indisposition, to protect his breeding stock, therefore the poultry arriving at the plant is generally in good condition.

General oversight is maintained by a spotter at the plant and reference is made to the Public Health Dept. if necessary.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

Total number of outbreaks	Nil
Number of cases	Nil
Number of deaths	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

No. on Register	41
Inspections	46
Outworkers	Nil
Contraventions found	3
Contraventions remedied	3
Formal notices	Nil

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Nine certificates of registration are now in force,

HOUSING

1. **Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—**

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Housing Acts)	372
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	617
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	19

(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 55

2. **Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—**

(*a*) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants 42

(*b*) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit with the assistance of Improvement Grants 12

3. **Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—**

(A)—Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) By Owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) By owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(C)—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1957, & Sections 10(1) & 11(2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 19

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 35

(3) Number of houses closed during the year ... Nil

(4) Number of families displaced during the year 22

(5) Number of persons displaced during the year 39

(D)—Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

(E)—Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:—
CLEARANCE AREAS:—

(1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year ... ... Nil

(2) Total number of houses included in (1) above Nil

(3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation ... ... Nil

(4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.... ... ... Nil

(5) Number of families displaced during the year Nil

(6) Number of houses demolished during the year Nil

4. **Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding**

(*a*) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 6

(ii) Number of families therein 6

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 38

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1

(*c*) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... Nil

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... Nil

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... Nil

(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ... Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(*a*) *Discretionary Grants*

7 houses have been improved with the assistance of discretionary grants. The total amount of grant being £2,750.

(*b*) *Standard Grants*

6 houses have been improved with the assistance of standard grants. The total amount of grant being £794 0s. 0d.

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications for certificates of disrepair have been received and no action taken under the above Act.

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

NEW DWELLINGS COMPLETED 1969

VILLAGE	Private		R.D.C.			Total
	Houses	Bungalows	Houses	Bungalows	Flats	
Alconbury ...	6	1	8	10	5	30
Alconbury Weston	12	2				14
Barham and Woolley ...		1				1
Brampton ...	24	8				32
Buckworth ...		1				1
Conington ...		1				1
Easton		1				1
Sawtry	5	30				35
Spaldwick ...	2					2
Great Stukeley ...	7					7
Little Stukeley ...		2				2
Upton and Coppingford ...	1	2				3
Upwood	3	1				4
	60	50	8	10	5	133

WATER SUPPLIES

The control of the water supplies is in the hands of the Nene and Ouse Water Board and all water supplies were satisfactory.

The water contains very little fluoride and no action has been taken to introduce fluoride into the water.

There are no standpipes in the District.

B. R. DIXON, M.P.H.I.A.